

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

## Campaign to link passengers and transport workers

# IT'S A FARE FIGHT



Pic: Tony Macklin

Everybody off! Higher fares mean less passengers mean less buses. Hackney's overstretched public transport will be even worse when the new fares come in on 21 March.

A campaign bringing together passengers and transport workers to fight against the doubling of bus and tube fares in March was launched in the middle of January. Already a number of Hackney people are involved in the campaign, and a public meeting at Hackney Town Hall has been fixed for 15 February.

The decision in the House of Lords just before Christmas that the GLC supplementary rate was illegal and that London Transport had to run their service to break even has meant that the doubling of fares on 21 March is but a small part of the story. Services will be cut, which will mean seven Tube stations closing completely, some bus routes will almost certainly be axed and there will be even fewer buses and trains.

All this is particularly bad news for Hackney. With only two Tube stations in the borough (Manor House and Old Street, both just on the edge) and only one-third of households with access to private cars, most people are completely reliant on the buses for getting about. The reduction in fares in October last year meant a real saving.

### Petition

A London campaign called Fare Fight is now planning a series of stickers and leaflets which will be used to draw in public support to save the cheap fares. A petition is also being launched and this will be taken round Tube stations and bus stops with the aim of getting many thousands of signatures before the date for the increase.

Work is also going to liaise with action planned by the transport unions. The Campaign to Improve London Transport held a meeting with over 200 representatives from bus and tube workers, and pensioners and community organisations, and decided to organise for a mass lobby of parliament. And a joint campaign committee of the London Transport unions has also been established, which is distributing its own leaflets and called a meeting of all LT shop stewards for 17 February to build support for the campaign.

In Hackney, the Hackney Public Transport Action

Committee has organised a public meeting for 15 February at Hackney Town Hall. Dave Wetzel, chair of the GLC transport committee, has agreed to speak, and there will be other speakers from the transport unions.

Plans are also being advanced for imaginative forms of protest. A double decker bus is being organised to tour round the borough for a fortnight, giving free lifts to people, handing out leaflets and spreading the word about the resistance to the fares rises. A song is being written specially to be performed on the bus, and it is hoped that this will

be given its first performance on 15 February at the Hackney Town Hall meeting. There will be an organising meeting for the public meeting on Tuesday 2 February at Shoreditch Town Hall, at 7.30pm, to which all are invited.

### Forwards

So there is, at last, a campaign beginning to build around the fares issue. The GLC themselves are sometimes moving forwards to defend the system they were so proud of, but sometimes they are moving backwards. There is talk of a massive £250,000 campaign

to advertise on all the buses and tubes and buy space in newspapers, but this may be blocked by legal niceties. The GLC must stop talking just to senior union officials but to the people who elected them and to the bus and tube workers themselves. With their help then a big campaign could develop. Local community groups are willing to act, but they will need support from the transport unions and the GLC.

If you want to help in any way, then contact the Hackney Public Transport Action Committee, 380 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 739 5137

## People say yes

Public response to the Fares Fair policy showed that more people were using London Transport for the first time for some 20 years.

Even in the first four weeks of operation it was shown that 11 per cent more journeys were made by bus and 7 per cent more by Tube - and at weekends Tube journeys went up by a further 3 per cent. This was above the targets that LT had set for themselves and was a complete vindication of the policy. Receipts were also higher by 3 per cent on the

Four new low bus fares  
Four new fare zones

buses and on target on the Tube.

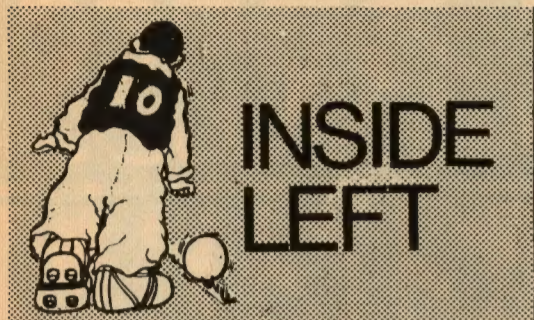
Passengers also found that the simplified fares cut down the time taken to buy tickets at central Tube stations, and on the buses, expected reductions in passenger boarding time and increased operating speeds appeared to have been achieved.

GLC Transport Committee chairperson Dave Wetzel said at the time that the facts proved what he had said all along. "If you cut the fares, more people will use the spare capacity on buses and trains. A move to public transport would only benefit London. People would be able to move about more freely to find work or just enjoy themselves and this must lead to fewer cars choking the streets."



### INSIDE STORY

Poland in Crisis: a local person writes about his recent trip to Poland. "There's nothing to be frightened of," he was told, "they can't arrest 12 million Solidarity members."



# LABOUR PAINS AS NEW STARS BORN

The ritual dance to the music of time performed by the self-styled leadership of Hackney has now reached a stage about two-thirds of the way through its madcap progress. Already we have witnessed epic deeds of skullduggery, downright two-facedness, fine rhetoric, promising careers cut short, rash promises and enough backs stabbed to make an average night in Reading police station seem like a jaunt round Clissold Park zoo. Hackney has been no place for the faint-hearted as roles are played to the hilt, with macho swagger and conspiratorial nods and winks. And that is just the story of the negotiation between the SDP and Liberals. The Labour Party, that's another story. So that's where I'll begin.

## Old Timers

Once upon a time there was a borough called Hackney. For many years it had been ruled by a clique. This was a group of people who had all been elected onto the Council for the first time in about 1950. (Or was it 1850?) Every so often one or two of the real oldsters would pop off, or forget to turn up, or retire to the Isle of Wight. Then a "young one" as the Hackney Gazette used to call them, might get elected. These young ones would get quickly disillusioned as they realised that power was not where they thought it was and they would retire in disgust, weary of being told by their elders: "I used to be like you, you know, fiery and radical and thinking that I could change things."

Things - or times - were a'changing...or at least the local Labour Party was. By

1978 many of the deadheads had been supplanted in local wards by a much younger group of people. In the Council elections that year a substantial minority were elected and called themselves a Broad Left group. Internal dissension spiced with careerist desire meant that this group became rapidly neither very broad or very left and fell apart. The old guard remained in charge on the Council, concocting in their usual fashion, a deal here, a deal there.

So here we are now in 1982, with a different situation from 1978. Enough Renault 5s have pulled up in front of enough trendy knocked through houses in Clapton to render further changes in Hackney Labour Party. Hackney Central has fallen almost completely into the hands of the new left. Hackney South remains pretty firmly in the old guards' hands, where they have to contend with the Liberal menace. And in Hackney North, much to most people's surprise, the old guard has made a bit of a comeback. The selection process is almost complete there - and some quite surprising choices have been made.

## Unfair

For your delectation, therefore, we present the Inside Left guide to next May's Labour candidates (part one). All descriptions are completely partial, totally unfair and possibly libellous. Anyone contemplating libel action would do well, however, to contemplate the fate of Miles Leggett, who once walked tall as the vice-chair of the Social Services Committee. After

he tried to take on Hackney People's Press he was struck from his post and even now is scrambling to get reselected in his Queensbridge ward. Be warned!

### BROWNSWOOD

Retiring councillors are David Clark, middle of the road Leftie, and Max Feldman, old guard. Here the old machine has swung into action to get OAP Max back. Perhaps "swung" is the wrong word to use, since some 70 old folks were wheeled into the selection meeting to win back this ward for the right. Also selected was Henry Levy, who has wanted to be a councillor for about thirty years. Henry has already promised his many fans that he will be in nobody's pocket. And indeed he won't, since Brownswood is quite likely to fall to the SDP. Not too many people in the Labour Party will mind too much, I can tell you.

### NEW RIVER

Retiring councillors are Patrick Kodikara who has gone for a safer seat in Hackney Central, Keith Lichman and Dora Fenton, who are not standing again. All three were originally Broad Left members, with Kodikara and Lichman staying on the far left of the council. There has been a certain crisis since their departure, however, since not enough people turned up for the selection meeting. David Clark is thought to be likely to transfer here from neighbouring Brownswood, along with ex-MP Maureen Colquhoun but the selection meeting has to be held again.

### NORTHFIELD

Retiring councillors are Les Layward and Shuja Shaikh, who have both been deselected, and Denis Trim, the self-styled Marxist who left Labour for the SDP. Selected candidates are Tony Milwood, respectable middle of the road left, Richard Taylor, who may be leftish and Abraham Pinter, who is not.

### NORTHWOLD

Retiring councillors are Frances Alexander, who got deselected, Jackie Warawi, who didn't stand, and Antony Kendall. Both Warawi and Kendall were original Broad Lefties, but Warawi has almost dropped out of politics completely. Kendall was reselected easily, and will probably hold an important position in the jockeying for power after the elections. Two other local Lefties were also selected, Marcelle Chissick and Clancy Etienne.

### CLISSOLD

Retiring councillors are Sam Cohen and Howard Pallis, who have both been reselected and Catharine Hoey, who has decided to go on to higher things. Sprightly septagenarian Sam Cohen and slightly less sprightly Howard Pallis are being joined by another

middle of the road leftie, Mervyn Jones.

### SOUTH DEFOE

Retiring councillors are Peter Kahn and John Sweeney, both very much left wingers. Sweeney did not stand again but Kahn did and was reselected. The new selection was Ann Cameron, also a leftwinger. It was thought that Kahn would not stand again, but in some places the left began to look very short of experience, so he went forward.

### NORTH DEFOE

Retiring councillors are very quiet leftwinger Paul Marshall and old guard Don Waller. Marshall did not stand again, and Waller was deselected. Once again, there has been a problem over the selection meeting, since Leaview tenants leader Jack Davidson was selected, and then said he would rather be selected afor the ward he already represents, Springfield. So the selection may not be final.

### RECTORY

Retiring councillors are Brian Weller, Sam Springer and John McCafferty, all leftwingers. And they've all been reselected, which will probably be a record of some kind in this round of elections.

### SPRINGFIELD

Labour councillors in this ward are Jack Davidson and Ruth Gee, both leftwingers. Gee has flown to Hackney Wick but Davidson seems to want to hang on in there. This may be a vainglorious move by him however, since one seat is already held by Tory Joe, and if the Tories don't capture the others then surely the SDP will.

### WICK

Retiring councillors are all rightwingers Bella Callaghan, John Paton and Don Ward. Callaghan and Paton were reselected, but somewhat to everyone's surprise Ward was not, and was replaced by middle of the road leftie Ruth Gee.

### LEABRIDGE

Retiring councillors are old guards Betty Blomfield, Florrie Newill and Arthur Taylor. All were deselected and replaced by leftwingers John Chanin, Chris Baxter and Brynley Heaven.

### KINGS PARK

Retiring councillors are both old guard, Charles Cable and Jim Holland. Both have been given the push and replaced by Patrick Kodikara and Ken Hanson. Kodikara is of course a refugee from the SDP-threatened New River ward. Deselected Jim Holland soon

bounced back by being selected in Chatham.

### CHATHAM

Retiring councillors are leader John Kotz, loyal sidekick Eddie Millen and middle of the road leftie Charles Clarke. Kotz and Clarke were both reselected. Surprisingly Millen was not - and was replaced by Jim Holland.

### HOMERTON

Retiring councillors are old guard Gus Martin and very old guard George Silver. Both have fallen and have been replaced by Richard Gee, already a councillor in Dalston ward, which has not yet selected, and Chris Spencer. Both are MOR lefties.

### WEST DOWN

Retiring councillors are Denise Robson, who got in at a by-election late last year, and is a leftwinger, and ex-leader Martin Ottolangui, who is supposed to be retiring. Robson was reselected and Ottolangui was replaced by Martin Whitfield, ex-Hackney Gazette leftwinger (!). Ottolangui, it is rumoured in dark places, may yet be contemplating a comeback in Hackney South.

### EAST DOWN

No selection meeting yet, but not really necessary since retiring councillors are old guards Bob and Matilda Owen and their daughter Linda Hibberd. They are thought to have the selection sewn up.

Selection meetings for all the seats in Hackney South have not yet been held, and the contest is hotting up. There is thought to be a shortage of realistic candidates, however, and we may yet find some old and too familiar faces drifting down south to the forgotten areas around Shoreditch to find themselves a place. If they do get defeated by what is now known as the Shoreditch factor (i.e. Jeff Roberts and his little Liberals) then I hope that they will be able to afford the busfare home.

In the meantime, rest assured that my spies are everywhere. Part 2 of this exciting guide will appear next month, along with my confident predictions for the likely political make-up of the Council. Happy hunting!

#### ADVERTISEMENT

**sun power**

83 blackstock rd  
tel: 01-226 1799

#### book on

Nuclear Power  
Alternative Energy  
Ecology, Nature  
Organic Gardening  
Self-Sufficiency  
Crafts, D.I.Y.  
Wholefood, Health  
Feminism  
Anarchism  
Fiction  
Children's books

open: Mo-Sa 10-6, Thu 12-7

tube: finbury pk.



47a Grayling Road, Stoke Newington, London N16. Tel: 909 2889

# CLAPTON YOUTH DISPUTE CONTINUES

The dispute between Clapton Youth Centre and the Inner London Education Authority goes on.

After senior officers had agreed in December to a full public meeting in January between themselves and members and supporters of the Youth Centre they then backed down. It is thought that they got hold of last month's Hackney People's Press and our front page story frightened them off!

However, they consented to a further meeting with the deputation that they had seen before and some progress was made. It was agreed that some extra resources were needed by the centre for activities like the photography project.

## Disagreement

The main disagreement all along has been about the

status of the part-time Tutor in Charge, A. Samuel. The members want Sam's job to be changed into a full-time job as a lecturer or tutor, so that he can continue teaching. ILEA will not agree to this and will only offer him the position of a full-time youth worker. This would be a downgrading, since he would not be able to teach or supervise, which he is, at present, qualified to do.

A Youth Centre spokesperson said after the meeting: "It is important to the Black Community that it should be able to define for itself what the necessary role of a teacher, lecturer or supervisor in a Youth Centre should be. White middle-class males should not interpret what is or is not the intention of the Burnham Agreement (which defines jobs and scales of pay) when applied to Black youth and their families."

# What is Chats worth?

Chats Palace, the Homerton community centre, is facing a severe cash crisis. The lack of adequate funding from the bodies which have been giving grants to Chats means that a deficit of £10,000 is expected for the current financial year.

Unless the financial position improves, the future of Chats could be in grave doubt.

Since Chats began, the

funding it receives from Hackney Council has been considered entirely inadequate. This year, apparently the funding of £12,470 has been consumed by the rates to, of course, the Council and by the repair and maintenance of the building (owned by guess who?).

Chats is launching an all-out campaign to get realistic funding from the Council for 1982-83. They feel that the funding is needed in recognition of the work that they do and the facilities that they provide. They are therefore writing to all friends, community based groups and organisations to ask for letters of support.

Chats runs workshops in printing, photography, performance, film animation, props and costume making for the Christmas show and summer festival. They also run the events and entertainments programme with theatre, music hall, jazz, mixed-media shows and fund raising benefits for local organisations.

To keep all these activities going Chats is in desperate need of increased funding from HBC and any letters of support they receive will be used to back up their application.

Whatever your involvement, Chats would like your views on Chats and its role as a resource for Hackney.



# Shoreditch Park -PLAYPARK?

Hackney as a whole doesn't do badly for parks. But looking at a map, you will search in vain for pleasant green open spaces in that quarter of Hackney south of Dalston Junction and west of Queensbridge Rd which includes Shoreditch Haggerston and De Beauvoir. Here the concrete jungle closes in on all sides, and people could be forgiven for noting the changing reasons by nothing more than a change in temperature.

It is for this reason that the creation of Shoreditch Play Park, out of an area of slum clearance, is so important. It's a small area as parks go, so every square foot should be used to its best advantage and reflect the needs and aspirations of the children, women and men who live in this part of Hackney. So far this patently has not happened, as the mixed feelings locally to the Britannia Centre make plain. Last month the council shelved the ambitious Leisure Pool with waves and palm trees; something which surely could never have happened if there had been strong local support for the idea.

What can be salvaged at this late stage? A lot, I think, if the council can be persuaded to start planning in a different way, in partnership with their constituents. And it has started to happen for Shoreditch playpark, a section of the park reserved for the delight of children. At first the council planners followed the usual course of action. They drew up detailed proposals for the playpark, not having spoken to a single child or parent, expecting to have them endorsed (with possibly minor modifications) at a public meeting. The consultation with the public would be complete, and work on the playpark would begin. However, at the first public meeting, held in the Britannia Centre last October, the public were in no mood to endorse. It was obvious that the most basic requirements,

such as toilets, shelter, staff, sand and water for the under fives etc., etc., had not even been considered. So, to their credit, the council agreed - back to the drawing board.

## NEW PLANS

A grant was made to Hackney Play Association to take on extra staff, and start planning in a different way, with children and parents in Shoreditch.

Lin Simonon, author of a project pack "Making Playgrounds and Gwyn Kirk, who has worked on the Covent Garden Community Garden, made a start this month, visiting schools and playgroups, and the library's Book Bus is rolling along with an exhibition and slide show. The response so far has been very encouraging. Gwyn and Lin have been compiling a great "shopping list" of what everyone wants. The difficult task over the next two months will be to get beyond the "shopping lists" to detailed design work. How can this be done? Every group taking a little bit that they've got a special interest in and working on that. For example, the parents at one playgroup are adamant that there should be sand for under fives.... not a popular item with the parks department since sandpits need regular daily maintenance. They will be designing a sandpit. Expert advice will be on hand to answer technical questions, such as materials, etc., but in the last analysis they, parents with young children, are the experts since they know how young children play with sand.

The time and resources allocated for the planning process are much smaller than HPA would have liked. Outline proposals must be drawn together at a public meeting on February 25th.

HPA wants to reach as many people as possible so contact them: 739-2394, if you'd like to be involved in any way.

# Learn To Farm



Hackney City Farm is organising another course on "Understanding City Farms". This will be run in conjunction with Hackney Adult Education Institute.

The first part, which will be taking place in February and March, will be classroom based. A second part, now being planned, will be practical, involving visits to the places best able to demonstrate how its done. Also included will be a look at the experimental approach in farming and an examination of the way in which the city farm movement is developing.

In the earlier section of the course there will be six, two hour sessions with a guest speaker followed by question-time and discussion. Topics covered will be 'The Farming Year', 'Inner City Beekeeping', 'Poultry', 'Environmental Gardens', 'Build-a-bility' and 'Alternative Energy'.

The first session starts at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 24th, February at Upton House School, Homerton Row E9. The course registration fee is the normal evening class one of £6 for the term (50p for OAPs and under 18s). If you are only interested in going to particular sessions, or want more detailed information on the course in general, then please contact Hackney City Farm on 806 5622 or at 12, Leaside Road, E5.

## MADGE HARTE

Madge Harte, who was killed in a car crash in Zimbabwe recently, along with her daughter Celina, was someone Hackney could not afford to lose. It sounds almost clichéd to say it, but Madge was quite simply a really genuine, nice person who was always interested in what you did and who always got involved completely in anything she took on. She had been involved in many things, local festivals and street parties, Labour Party activities, Centerprise but was probably best known for her work for Hackney Under Fives, where for many years she had been one of the paid co-ordinators.

In times when Hackney seems to be full of people who are passing through, we will really miss someone like Madge, who was born, brought up and stayed here. Most of all she will be missed for being herself, simply a smashing person.

# LONDON MEETS

A new opportunity for groups to get together to debate problems affecting London has just been set up under the title of the London Assembly.

The themes for the first meeting to be held in February are London's financial crisis in the wake of Government grant cutbacks and the need to protect the capital's essential services.

The London Assembly has been launched by a number of organisations including the GLC, Campaign to Improve London Transport and the London Tenants Organisation.

## CONFERENCE

Representatives of organi-

sations covering all aspects of London are being invited - whether community, workplace or minority groups - to the one-day conference which is being held on Saturday, 27 February.

The Assembly will be in two main sessions - morning and afternoon - each being devoted to one of the main themes. The sessions will be introduced by speakers and the rest of the time given over to contributions from the organisations that attend.

If you belong to an organisation that has not been invited and would like to go, contact the Assembly Office, Room 233, County Hall, London SE1 7PB.

# Utopian puzzler

Hackney WEA's autumn series of classes "Alternatives to Everything" is continuing throughout the spring session with another series of talks. Below joint course convener Sheila Rowbotham explains some of the thinking behind the programme.

The problem of combining a vision of how life could be completely transformed so that nobody was oppressed with the development of a political strategy which satisfies immediate discontent has long been a puzzler for socialists.

Even before Marx, radicals were criticising the early English socialist and co-operator Robert Owen. His schemes, they maintained, were too visionary to threaten anyone.

Marx and Engels also criticised Owen's ideas, which they called "utopian socialism". Since then most socialists have been wary of ideal alternatives which ignore how change can be carried out. Marxism has always stressed the need to assess the odds and relate action to the balance of forces.

This was developed by Lenin into political strategy geared to underground struggle against autocratic power. It then became popularly assumed amongst both reformists and revolutionaries that utopianism was bad and science was good. Only some of the disastrous effects of science like Valium and the Bomb have upset this conviction.

However, there has also been a tradition of socialism which, while moving away from the model-building utopias, has still emphasised the need to nurture new expectations. This recognition that action and organisation have to achieve specific ends and serve as a springboard for the imagination to make a utopian leap never died and appeared amongst both anarchist groups and in the Independent Labour Party.

## Tracing choices

E.P. Thompson in his biography of William Morris wrote about "the whole problem of the sub-ordination of imaginative utopian facilities within the later Marxist tradition: its lack of moral self-consciousness or even a vocabulary of desire, its inability to project any images of the future, or even its tendency to fall back in lieu of these upon the Utilitarian's earthly paradise - the maximisation of economic growth."

In the last decade the women's movement has revived the questioning of everyday habits, respected the releasing of imagination tussled with inner desires and tried to make living alternatives in the here and now. Recently a widespread dissatisfaction with existing definitions of socialism and approaches to organising has emerged on the left.

This renewal of the utopian

element in socialism does not mean pretending that we can opt out of capitalism. It means tracing choices between differing directions and clearly asserting moral preferences. This makes us give equal place to assessing the odds, achieving an end and transforming expectations when devising a strategy.

The most valuable source for developing such a strategy is the great wealth of our own



A Vision of Utopian Socialism  
by Walter Crane.

experiences of what has been tried and done in practice. By examining some of the many attempts to give shape to what we mean by "making socialism" this course follows on from the talks on areas of strategy last autumn. We hope that the discussions that will follow each talk will begin to draw out patterns of similarity or difference in the achievements and pressures which have constrained the various radical alternative projects and activities.

The remaining meetings on the course are as follows:  
3 Feb. Alternatives for the local press. (including a contribution from HPP.)  
10 Feb. Learning from alternatives. Open discussion.

17 Feb. Alternative health practice within the NHS. Speakers from Lime Groves Health Centre, South London and Clapton Health Centre.  
24 Feb. Television - what we could be seeing.  
3 March. Alternative approaches in Mental Health.  
10 March. Black Education - the need for alternative provision. Speaker from Hackney Education and Development Society.  
17 March. Open discussion.  
24 March. Alternatives international. Experiences from Barcelona and Berlin. Other experiences welcome.  
31 March. To be arranged.  
7 April. Co-ops and workers' plans. Hilary Wainwright and speaker from Hackney Co-op developments.

All classes are on Wednesdays at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8 at 8pm. 50p waged or 20p unwaged per session.

# LIBRARY SELLS BOOKS!

Now people in Shoreditch can go to their local library and buy books. Hackney libraries and bookseller Romas Kinkas, have pioneered a revolutionary bookshop scheme at Shoreditch branch library in Pitfield Street. To the left of the library counter as you go in is a neat wooden kiosk like a railway station bookstall. On display inside is a range of books far more comprehensive than you would ever see on a station platform. They are laid out on polished shelves and special swivelling stands called 'spinners'. The service offered is one few large bookshops could equal.

Romas Kinkas and his co-manager John Richardson, will order any book a customer asks for and will also undertake free book searches to see if a book can be found in print anywhere. He claims that in special circumstances he could have a paperback in the shop just a half hour after the order, but usually orders will take a day or two.

The bookshop aims to offer a general service without any special bias. It has hardback books, good fiction (including all the Virago titles), a lot of dictionaries and reference guides, children's books and a well chosen selection of popular paperbacks.

It will not be unique for long. A companion bookshop will be opening at Stamford Hill library in March.

How did a bookshop ever come to be opened in a library? Is it really a progressive scheme? Last March the book-seller read an article by Michael Holroyd which proposed selling books in libraries, and approached the borough librarian with the idea. At first it didn't seem possible because the law says that libraries cannot sell books. However, expert legal opinion argued that it would be all right if the library staff were not



Library users browse and buy

Pic: Tony Macklin

involved, and the library service was not reduced at all.

So Romas Kinkas financed the whole business and arranged to pay rent to the library for the use of space. Councillor Kate Hoey supported it because it provides an amenity without cost to the ratepayer, a vital concern to many politicians at the moment.

The library is very enthusiastic, and the bookshop believes that both library and shop will benefit. People will be able to see new books in the shop and order them for the library so they can read them, and borrowers may decide to buy books that they have already read but want to keep.

The bookshop is not intended to compete with Centreprise which is too far for most people in south Hackney to reach very often. It provides a bookshop in an area where it's very hard to buy any books but the sensational or escapist paperbacks on sale in the newsagents.

People should have the opportunity to buy books. Owning books encourages children to read more and helps them at school. But isn't there a danger

that the principle of free access to books on loan from the library is being breached? The answer is a qualified no. We are lucky to have such a good bookseller, a man who grew up in the borough, running the shop. What we must ensure is that the council don't see it as an excuse to reduce still further the real value of library spending. Our libraries are in a bad state, although they have all remained open, and there have been no cuts in opening hours. The books in them are deteriorating rapidly, and the buildings are often in bad need of improvement. Readers can wait months for a popular book because the library can't afford enough copies. The real value of the money spent on libraries, especially the £273,000 spent on books, has declined a lot from that spent only five years ago. Although Hackney is a poor borough it spends a smaller proportion of its budget on library services than many other boroughs.

So let's support the new scheme but let's also support our libraries and go on pressing the council, and the government, to increase spending on them.

## A PROFESSOR SPEAKS

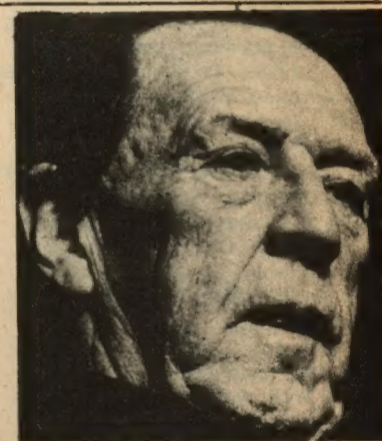
A Cambridge professor, Raymond Williams, was part of Centreprise's fund raising efforts in January. Author of the novels *Border Country* and *Second Generation*, and books on literature, television, culture and Marxism, he spoke about the ways access to literature has been restricted in English history. He easily engaged his large audience of people dressed for the arctic weather. Sue Shrapnel, who had helped arrange the talk for the WEA, said it was the first meeting she'd chaired in wellington boots.

The talk covered a lot of ground, but the gist of it was this: for centuries the writing of novels, plays and poems was restricted to the upper classes because of the education needed to write, and the insistence that their way of talking and writing was the only correct one. The kind of stories they wrote were not helpful ways of looking at working life from within.

When working people did begin to write, they tended to produce autobiographical works, or stories about communities where everyone was of exactly the same class. Professor Williams hoped that new writers would go further - develop new ways of writing poems and novels, and write about the wider world in which their lives were lived.

He also had a warning for left wing journalists about their failure to create a truly popular style. At the moment it is only the right wing national newspapers that achieved a popular 'man to man' (and here several people in the audience flinched) style. A popular style need not be all cliché, or the patronising dull jargon it so often is in the left press.

It was a very good idea to invite Raymond Williams and his talk was very interesting, but it did illustrate what a gap there can be between even the most enlightened academic and readers or writers in an area like Hackney. His green tweed suit and his careful but sometimes wordy and abstract delivery set him apart from the audience in a way that was at times painfully obvious. Although he was aware of it (and his excellent



novel *Border Country* explores this experience of separation) he couldn't always bridge it. He seemed unwilling or unable to actually mention the work of recent writers or theatre groups or poets that were new and exciting, but still close to working communities. One questioner felt he was too easily saying there was no basic standard for English. If he had to teach a primary class in Brixton, as Sue did, he might feel differently.

We trudged home having had a lot of good ideas stirred up, Centreprise were £80 richer (and arguing about his talk), and Professor Williams saw a project where local writing is encouraged and published.

# POLAND'S LOST FREEDOM

In the light of events in Poland during the past year, which culminated in the introduction of martial law just before Christmas, a member of the HPP collective gives a personal account of the situation in Poland in the summer of 1981.

As we all are only too well aware, the 'Polish experiment' has ended with the headmaster finally producing the big stick just as the pupils were discovering how to make gunpowder. It will probably be many months before we get a clear picture of what has really happened but one thing is obvious: Poland is once again marching along in line behind the Russians. The Poland of today must take hints from the hardline Eastern bloc countries like East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The main achievement of Solidarity was not the usual one for a trade union of improving its members' standard of living (in fact, living standards have dropped quite considerably, as the Polish government never missed any opportunity of pointing out) but by giving a voice to the new mood of optimism in the country.

**SOLIDARNOŚĆ**

The Poland of the 1970's was essentially a police state where one misplaced word could mean anything from losing your job to spending the next five years behind bars. An illustration of what I mean is given by the history of Mr. Opacki. Mr. Opacki was an artist who had been able to make quite a comfortable living without climbing the Party ladder. This raised the authorities' interest in him. One morning in the early hoursthree plainclothes policemen called at his house and took him away dressed only in his pyjamas. Three days later they rang his wife to say that he had committed suicide by hitting his head against the cell wall. The police had to release the body for the funeral and despite their cover-up efforts it was quite obvious that he had been viciously beaten. His skull had been smashed in several places and his fingers sadistically broken. When you remember that he was an artist, this must have been particularly distressing. With the



The centre of Warsaw during the August tram strike. Above: leaflets fill the square. Right: a circle points out the automatic TV camera trained down on the strikers.

emergence of Solidarity, however, it has become a lot more difficult for the security forces to do exactly as they pleased.

**SOLIDARNOŚĆ**

When I went to Poland last summer, I travelled by train through East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Anyone who has been to either of these countries will know that it is impossible to spit without hitting a soldier. At one point on the journey we stopped at the Freidrichstrasse Station in East Berlin. As the train pulled up at the platform, a column of soldiers carrying automatic rifles appeared and stood guard by the train. Although we were in no danger, it was really quite frightening to see these men in their steel grey uniforms and grey breeches tucked into black leather jackboots - in fact, the sort of dress you usually associate with the Nazis. However, it was their stance that was most striking. Legs apart, hands clasped tightly behind their backs, heads held arrogantly high - just like their fathers of forty years ago.

Travelling through East Germany, I was in a compartment with Poles, though at the time I had no idea what nationality they were because no-one was saying a word. In fact, I think the whole journey through East Germany was made in total silence. As we approached the Polish border, there was a strange uneasiness in the carriage and the East German officials came to stamp our passports for the final time. Once stamped, the passports were returned with a cursory thank you and then the train trundled over the border into Poland. Suddenly the whole carriage sprang into life, as if a shower of rain had just fallen on the desert. Everybody started laughing and joking as is they had known each other for years. A young woman sitting next to me brought down a couple of carrier bags and began to produce an incredible variety of groceries just like a magician out of a hat. She then proceeded to devour in thirty minutes what would normally be a monthly ration. First a banana, then some chocolate, then a pint of milk, then a packet of chocolate biscuits and so on.

**SOLIDARNOŚĆ**

A youngish man opposite me with a Lech Walesa moustache produced a Solidarity record commemorating the opening of the monument at Gdansk in 1980 which was eagerly passed around the carriage. Even the Polish passport officials were different. Admittedly they were still in uniform but with their faces unshaven and their top buttons undone they had lost that stiff authoritarian air. Now, however, they must lose their human face and just become a cog in the military machine.



**SOLIDARNOŚĆ**

Whatever the Polish military government may do, nothing can destroy the sense of brotherhood that Solidarity brought to the Polish people. My strongest memory, on a glorious sunny day in August, was of the tram strike in Warsaw, which I was fortunate enough to see, if not to take part in. The main road to Warsaw was blocked completely by trams, lorries and tractors, all with bunches of flowers tucked into the radiator or behind the windscreen wipers. All the big hotels overlooking the street had red and white flags hanging out of their windows and hundreds of people were on the balconies giving their support. The most satisfying sight was the Solidarity

flags hanging from Stalin's Palace of Culture.

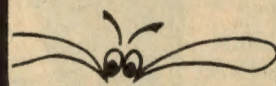
When it was decided to end the strike, all the vehicles sounded their horns and a mass of leaflets was thrown high into the air. The noise was deafening and as each lorry or tram pulled away, it was given a mighty cheer from the crowd. It was then that I looked up and saw perched high up on the side of a hotel wall was one of those automatic TV cameras, pointing right down the line of trams. I pointed it out to a Polish friend standing next to me, but he seemed quite unconcerned. "Not to worry", he said, "it is only for controlling the traffic. Anyway, what's the point of taking photographs? They can't arrest 12 million Solidarity members."



Mr Opacki, murdered in 1976.

ADVERTISEMENT

Open 10am-6pm.  
Monday to  
Saturday.



## Mosquito Bikes

Cycle Repair Co-operative  
18 Ashwin Street  
Dalston  
London E8 3DL  
Tel. 01-249-7915



All kinds of repairs  
Cycles overhauled  
Wheels straightened  
Spares and accessories  
Friendly service and advice

Front entrance through  
Bootstrap Enterprises  
in Ashwin Street.  
Cycle entrance through  
yard in Abbot Street.

## GET PLOTTED!

### ALLOTMENT GROUP ENTERS 2ND YEAR

Hackney Allotment Society has just entered a second year of operation. At a well-attended AGM it was announced that 43 plots have now been allocated. Yet it was also disclosed that agreement has still not been reached with Hackney Council on the standard rent to be charged on the sites.

#### Aims

The Society was founded at a public meeting in November 1980 with the aim of providing allotments on land prepared by and rented from the Council. Any waste ground around the Borough is investigated and, in general, the Society sees itself acting as a pressure group to get more land released for leisure gardening. As sites become available, they are offered to those members who do not already have an allotment.

#### Sites

Sites at present under cultivation include one in Darnley Rd E9 and another in Church Walk N16. At the AGM, groups of plots in Springdale Rd N16 and at the GUS sportsground

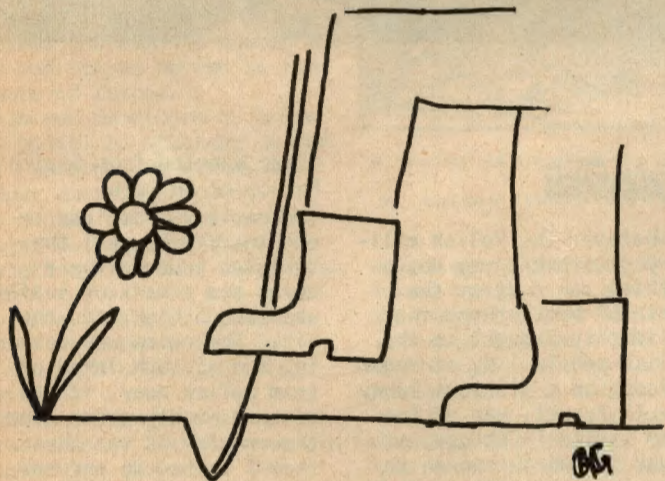
E5 were allocated. There are, in the pipe-line, plots off Mount Pleasant Lane E5 and in Navarino Rd E8.

#### Rent negotiations

Delicate negotiations are presently going on with Hackney Council, which has an ex-officio seat on the Society's committee, over the standard rent to be levied on each plot. The Council would like to charge a good deal more than the national average of £3 per annum.

#### Membership details

Membership of the Society is open to all interested residents of the Borough. The annual subscription is £1. One of the benefits of membership is the ability to take part in bulk seed ordering at favourable prices. Meetings are also regularly held at which outside experts are invited to talk on subjects related to leisure gardening. Further information about the Society is obtainable from The Secretary, Ms J Farrell, 56 Oldfield Rd, N16 ORS.



## NEWTON ROSE IS INNOCENT

300 people marched to Hackney police station on Saturday 16 January to protest at the imprisonment of Newton Rose, a local black youth who was found guilty of murder late last year. The prosecution was based on statements made by friends of Newton Rose under duress in the police station and later withdrawn. The evidence of a woman who saw the victim being attacked in the street by a gang of white men was completely discounted.

The dead man, Antony Donnelly was white and a supporter of the National Front Constitutional Movement. Somewhat unusually he had been seen around with a black woman, who was also a friend of Newton Rose and defence lawyers argued that he had been attacked by other NF supporters.

The policeman in charge of the case was Detective Inspector Goodall. He was



the policeman who had been in charge of the investigation into the death of Michael Ferreira, a black youth killed in Stoke Newington two years ago. The white youths who stabbed him were treated so leniently by the court that one of them was acquitted and another got only five years. Newton Rose, by contrast, got life.

Further information from Newton Rose Committee, 76 Stroud Green Road, N4.

## GETTING 'WISE' ABOUT WORK

For the first time in Hackney, unemployed youth have been given the opportunity to develop their job-hunting skills. A new course has recently started at Hackney College in Mare Street offering one-to-one coaching in interviewing techniques, job searching and Confidence building as well as classes designed to improve their Maths and English.

The course, which runs on three days a week, also gives young people the chance to become involved in community work catering for their particular career ideas such as child care or clerical work. The work is unpaid because they are still signing on the dole. However they only work a few hours per week unlike the YOPS or TOPS schemes.

"The initial response has been very promising" said Mary Maddison, the course tutor at Hackney College. "Although it was slow to build up, more young people are enquiring every day and unlike many courses we take on students all through the twenty week course. This allows us to cater for their individual needs as some may

be only with us for a few weeks while others will be here for the duration."

'Hackney-Wise' is part of a recent programme by ILEA to cater for unemployed young people and Hackney College, thanks to an ILEA grant, have been able to take on additional staff to run the course. There

are nine new staff altogether and the students have been given their own special room in the college equipped with books, lockers, etc.

An interesting aspect of the course is "Assertion Training" which is intended to develop the students' self-confidence in approaching prospective employers and living in general. The subject makes full use of video, and in groups they work on role playing whilst recording, followed by a discussion on how they reacted. As the course has only been running for three weeks it is too early to give any accurate assessment but HPP hopes to return in a couple of months to really see if Hackney's youth are becoming 'Hackney-Wise'.



## Health funds diverted

There is a ten year waiting list for a bed in Hackney's psycho-geriatric unit the Area Health Authority has just broken its promise to open 20 new psycho-geriatric beds. The money (£270,000) allocated to City & Hackney Health District by the AHA in May 1981 to open these beds at the German Hospital has been used to offset overspending in other parts of the service.

#### DISGRACEFUL

The Revd. Bourne, supported by Lady Riches - both members of the AHA - said at a recent AHA meeting that they thought it was disgraceful that money given to the District was not used for the purpose for which it was intended.

City & Hackney Community Health Council, who had brought this matter to the AHA, had expressed anger at their own meeting that a commitment given in public to the community, staff and relatives could so easily be reneged on. They said this brought into question the AHA's credibility and its commitment to the most deprived service in the District, which is on everybody's priority list for development.

The staff who do a very difficult job see this as just one more piece of evidence that their work is not valued. The relatives Support Group, who had been told in a letter from the District that the beds would be open in September 1981, wrote: "For many of our families there is now no hope

of any help in caring for our elderly mentally ill relatives."

#### TOO FEW BEDS

The beds could open if the geriatricians would agree to close beds, but what are they meant to do with their patients? Their beds are now full and many patients who should be admitted cannot be admitted and others are admitted to general beds. Even if these beds are opened now the District will still only have 53 psycho-geriatric beds which is a third less than the national norms say we should have.

The Community Health Council will continue to press for the opening of these beds and consider it obscene that the two most deprived and most needed services in the District should be treated in this way.



# WHAT'S ON

## Theatre

### THEATRE ROYAL

Gerry Raffles Square, E15  
534 0310  
Thur 4 Eastminster Abbey Road  
show £2 in advance £2.50 on  
door.  
Fri 5 Talisman and Tribesmen  
(Roots Reggae double bill)  
£2.50 in advance £3 on door.  
Sat 6 Sacha Distel £5.12  
5.15 and 8.15  
Sun 7 Women's Theatre £2 8.00  
Mon 8 National Theatre Company  
£2 8.00  
Tues 9 London Festival Ballet  
£2 8.00  
Wed 10 Merseyside Young Peop-  
les Theatre £2 8.00  
Thurs 11 Fair Exchange £2 8.00  
Sat 13 Dirty Dick £2 8.00  
Sun 14 Sheila Steafal £2.50 in  
advance £2.75 on door 8.00  
Concessions available for  
unwaged-- ask Theatre for  
details.

### NEW HALF MOON THEATRE

213 Mile End Rd E1  
790 4000  
Mon 8, Mon 15 and Sun 28  
Rehearsed Play readings of  
new writers.

### OLD HALF MOON THEATRE

27 Alie Street E1  
Until Feb 13 The Yorkshire  
Tragedy and On the Great Road  
£2.50 7.30  
Sun 7 Sat 13 and Sat 20  
Live Jazz 8.00  
Concessions available for  
unwaged-- ask Theatre for  
details.

## Cinema

### HACKNEY FILM SOCIETY

Homerton Library, Homerton  
High Street E9  
Thurs 4 Breaker Morant, 1979  
Bruce Beresford 107 Mins  
Thurs 11 From Here To Etern-  
ity, 1953 Fred Zinnerman  
114 Mins  
Thurs 18 The Tenant, 1976  
Roman Polanski 126 Mins  
Thurs 25 Way Out West, 1937  
James W Horne 65 Mins plus  
Fraternal Yours, 1934  
William Seiter 66 Mins  
(Laurel and Hardy Double Bill)  
All films start at 7.30  
10 films for £1

### ASTRA CINEMA

119 Stoke Newington Rd N16  
TBA-Ring 254 0046 for details

### KONAK CINEMA

13/15 Stoke Newington Rd N16  
TBA-Ring 254 2415 for details

### CHAT'S PALACE

42/44 Brooksby's Walk, E9.  
The Life and Times of  
Rosie the Riveter (docum-  
entary presented by Lea  
Bridge CP) followed by  
discussion and disco  
£1.50 (£1 unwaged).

### RIO

107 Kingsland High St, E8.  
254 6677.  
Complete programme unavail-  
able at time of going to  
press but will include  
The Tragedy of a Ridiculous  
Man and Snow White and the  
Seven Dwarfs. All programmes  
will now be shown seven nights  
a week starting on Sunday

evenings. Also Sunday matinees  
including The Leopard  
(Visconti) on 7 Feb and The  
Phantom of Libert plus The  
Discreet Charm of the Bourg-  
eoisie (Bunuel) on 14 Feb.

## Music

### CROWN AND CASTLE

600 Kingsland Road, E8.  
254 3678  
Live folk music, every night  
downstairs free.  
Hackney Alternative Cabaret  
upstairs Saturday nights,  
9.00 pm : £2.

Sat 6 Flying Pickets - subver-  
sive music  
Ronnie Golden - musical  
comedy  
Chris Lilley - poet  
Nigel Planer - compere  
Thurs 11/Fri 12 Special Thurs  
and Fri shows with the Joeys.  
Sat 13 The Joeys  
Sat 20 The Joeys  
Fri 19 Special Fri writers  
night  
Sat 20 Desmond Jones - mime  
Artery - political  
music  
French & Saunders  
female double act  
Sat 27 Controlled Attack

### FOX'S WINE BAR

Stoke Newington Church St N16  
254 2709  
Live music at weekends,  
Sunday lunchtime jazz.

### PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes N16  
254 3678  
Mondays: to be confirmed  
Tuesdays: The Cannibals 80p  
Wednesdays: The Chip Shop Bar  
Show plus guests £1  
Thursdays: The Hank Wangford  
Band £1.50  
Fridays: Juice on the Loose  
£1.50  
Saturdays: Big Chief £1.25  
Sun 7 The G.B. Blues Co.  
with Root Jackson £1.50  
Sun 14 Ricky Cool  
Sun 21 The Breakfast Band  
£1.25  
All Bands start around 9.00

### CHATS PALACE

42/44 Brooksby's Walk, E9  
986 6714  
Fri 5 Community Social with  
Chosen Few disco. £1 (50p  
concessions) 8.00 pm.  
Sat 6 Chats Palace Music Hall  
£1.50 (75p concessions). 8.0  
8.00 pm.  
Sun 7 Lunchtime jazz with  
Captain Bewildered trio. Free.  
12.00.

Remaining programme uncon-  
firmed but will include a  
"look and sound like" Beatles  
marathon with side shows on  
Sat 20 Feb.

### PEMBURY ARMS

90 Amhurst Road, E8.  
985 5288.  
Live rock 'n' roll every Fri  
and Sun night.  
Fri 5 Sid Burns and the DAs.  
Fri 12 The Dragons  
Fri 19 The Strollers  
Fri 26 The Dynamite Band  
Every Sunday Flying Saucers.  
50p. 8.30 pm.

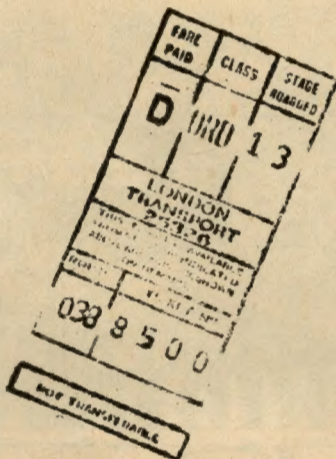
### CENTERPRISE

Sat 6 Feb Maggie Nichols and  
Friends. Disco Bar and creche  
WOMEN ONLY. 8.00 pm. £1.75  
(75p unwaged).

### HACKNEY ASSEMBLY HALL

Town Hall, Mare Street E8  
Tues 2 Lloyd Reckord in  
Beyond the Blues (Jamaican  
National Theatre Trust)  
Lecture recital from the  
Caribbean, USA and Africa.  
7.30 Free.

## Meetings



### HACKNEY FARE FIGHT CAMPAIGN

Tues 2 Organising meeting for  
later public meeting. 7.30 pm.  
Shoreditch Town Hall.

Mon 15 Public meeting  
Hackney Town Hall. 7.30  
pm. Speakers include Dave  
Wetzel from GLC and local  
Trades Council.

### HACKNEY CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mon 1 Extra ordinary General  
Meeting. 8 pm. Dalston  
Library.  
Mon 15 Business meeting. 8 pm.  
Dalston Library.  
Wed 17 Public debate. Hack-  
ney Town Hall. 8 pm.  
Fri 26. CND benefit bop.  
Crown and Castle, Dalston  
Junction.

### HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Editorial meeting for  
next month's issue.  
Tuesday 9th February,  
8pm, Centerprise, 136,  
Kingsland High Street.  
ALL THOSE INTERESTED  
IN WORKING ON OUR LOCAL  
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
PLEASE COME ALONG

### RIO CINEMA

Extraordinary General  
Meeting to discuss the  
committee's dissatisfaction  
with the present structures  
of the cinema and the need  
for a radical change in  
the management. New members  
are welcome to join either  
before or on the night of  
this meeting  
DATE: Wed. 3rd Feb, 8pm,  
at CENTERPRISE.

## SMALL ADS

Lea View Tenants Assoc. are  
looking for part-time youth  
workers for a small childrens  
centre on the estate.  
The centre will initially be  
open on two evenings a week  
and wages will be at the  
ILEA part-time rate.

Currently we have basic  
youth club equipment and  
it will be possible to do  
black and white photography  
with the kids using the  
Springfield Projects dark-  
room and the age group we  
hope to cater for is 5-16.

If interested phone:  
Sue or Pete on  
806 9617.

Centreprise, a multi-purpose  
community centre, requires  
a worker for our Advice  
Centre. S/he should have  
knowledge of welfare rights  
housing legislation and be  
experienced in advice  
giving. This is a tempor-  
ary maternity leave appoint-  
ment, but with the possi-  
bility of a permanent job  
in the project after 6  
months. S/he will be part  
of the collective, sharing  
work and responsibility  
throughout the whole  
project.

Salary: £6000 (under review)

Send large s.a.e. for  
details from Centreprise,  
136 Kingsland High Street,  
London E8. Closing date  
for applications 13 February.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## TROJAN POSTERS ★★★★★★



SOCIALIST FEMINIST  
POSTER



SAY NO TO CRUISE  
ROSTER.



RONALD REAGAN  
WAR MOVIE POSTER



BIKE POSTER

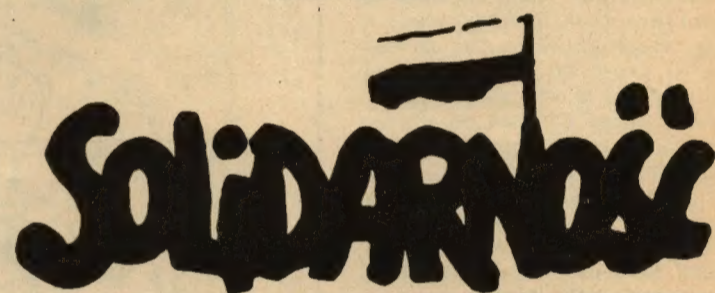
**Only 45p each + 30p P&P**

ALSO AVAILABLE, ANTI-SEXIST ALPHABET POSTER, THE  
FAMOUS GRAFFITTI POSTER, MARIJUANA CROP POSTER  
AND THE POLITICAL JOKES POSTER. ALL ONLY 45p

**Solidarność**  
POLISH SOLIDARITY  
POSTER.

47a Grayling Road London N16

### ADVERTISEMENT

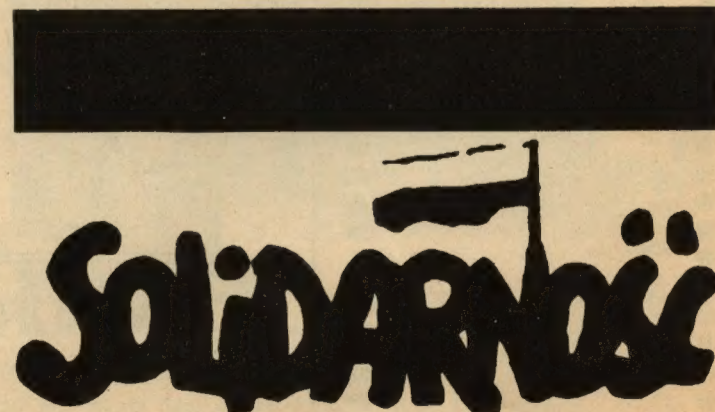


## Poland's Crisis

SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE BRITISH LEFT

An evening with Polish films, food, entertainment  
dancing, plus any questions session with Gordon  
McLennan, general secretary of the Communist Party.

To be held on Friday 5 February at the  
All Nations Club, Martello Street, London E8.  
Films start at 6.30pm. Licenced bar.  
Admission £1. (Unwaged 50p.) ALL WELCOME



# CENTERPRISE CRISIS: RAY OF HOPE?

Centerprise, the busy community centre on Kingsland High St., has yet to escape fully from its financial crisis. Last September, the centre was forced to make cuts in staff, reduce its opening hours, and stop its local publishing operation through lack of funds. The GLC came to its rescue with an emergency grant of £25,000 and Hackney council gave them £21,000 altogether as part loan, part grant. In addition to this, they receive £36,000 from ILEA in regular installments and £2,500 from the Greater London Arts Assoc. However, all this is not enough to guarantee their financial future.

They have applied to Hackney council for a further £23,000 from the borough's "under-spending" this year. This

additional grant is subject to the approval of the Dept. of the Environment, but Hackney are doing all in their power to 'steer' the funds through. This money is essential if Centreprise are to avoid the £50,000 deficit they were predicting last Autumn, and if they are to attempt to restore any of the cuts they made.

In order to ensure that Centerprise begins the next financial year relatively 'afloat', they are already planning their 'campaign' to secure future funding of the centre. In March and April they will be applying to the Inner City Partnership scheme which is jointly funded by Hackney council and the DOE. One of the advantages to be gained from such a source of funding is that the grant

is for three years unlike many others and this would go some way towards stabilising Centerprise's future. They will also be applying to the GLC and Hackney council direct. The workers at Centreprise estimate that they need at least £120,000 to run the centre affectively and all forms of income are vital for their survival.

One aspect of this urgent need for money was the birth of the "Centerprise Users Support Group", a body which raised nearly £500 to help Centerprise continue its work as an advice centre, a bookshop, and a coffee bar and generally as a community centre. It is hope by the workers that the group will continue to help particularly in the crucial run up to their funding applications.



CENTERPRISE: not out of trouble yet Pic: Tony Macklin

## HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

The open editorial meeting for the next issue of HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS will be held at at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8, at 8pm on Tuesday 9th February. If you would like to help write or produce the next issue then please come along.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

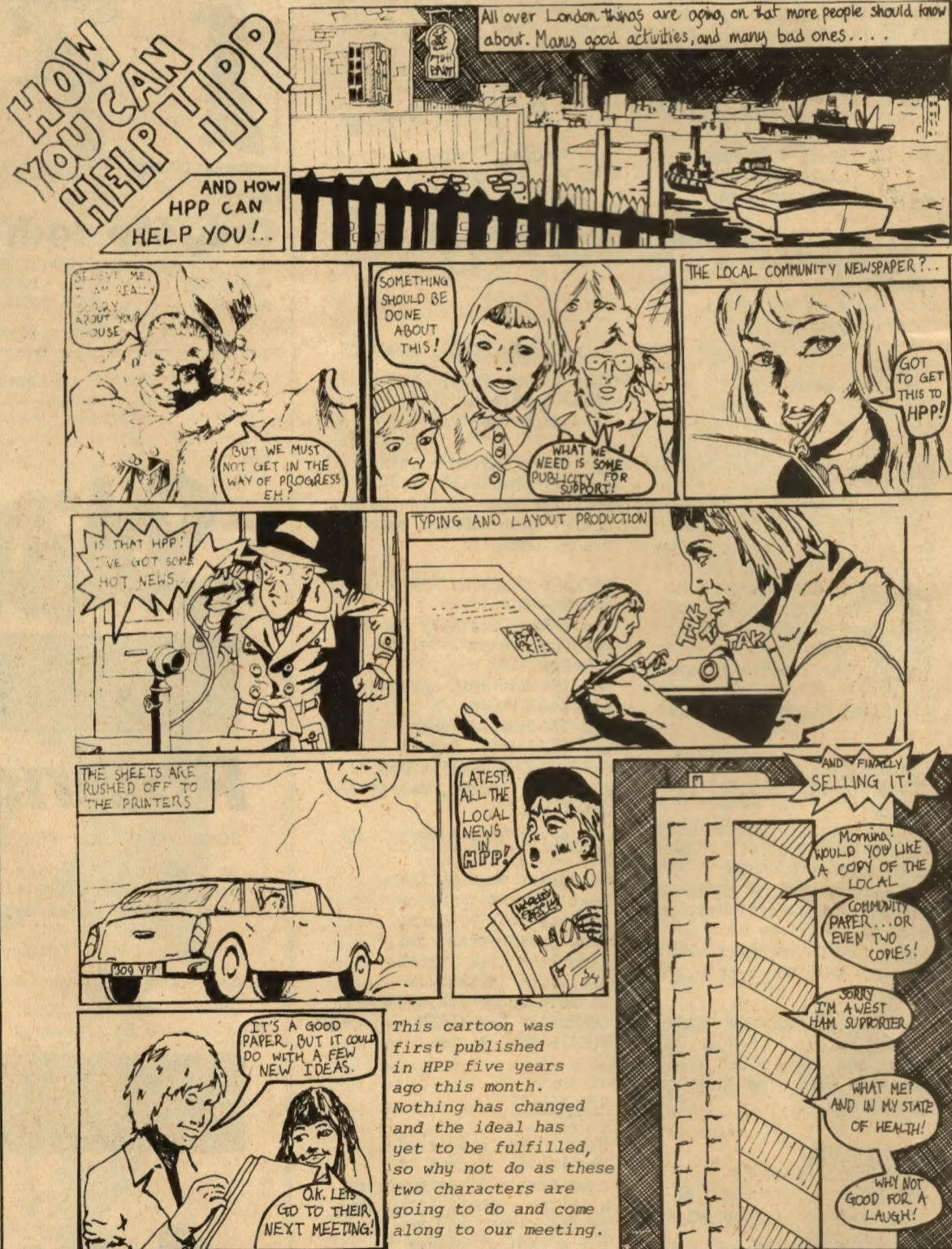
HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.80 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, N16.

Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Name.....

Address.....



## PETTY BUREAU

will be back soon. Get well quickly, Cath - love and best wishes from us all in the damp and dust in Grayling Road!



## STOKE NEWINGTON GETS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Stoke Newington residents are to at last get their own community centre when a five year old dream becomes reality this month.

The centre is to be in the old fire station in Leswin Road, on the corner of Brooke Road, behind the Co-op on the High St. The centre includes an event hall, a kitchen and cloakroom, and a basement which will be allocated for youth work. On the first floor there is to be a fully-equipped nursery and various small meeting/games rooms will be situated on the second floor.

The estimated cost of running the centre is £60,000 per annum but this is in excess of currently available funds. However the centre is going ahead and appointing staff in the form of a Youth Worker, a Warden/Community Worker and a Centre Administrator. However they are still sorting out money to pay for essentials such as gas and electricity.

The idea for the centre grew out of a local street party in the summer of 1977. This saw the birth of the Stoke Newington Community Assoc. whose main project was the community centre.

In the coming weeks, there will be discussion meetings at the centre to plan how the centre is to be run and all those who are interested should contact the S.N. Community Assoc. c/o 46a, Leswin Road, N.16.

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, London N16; tel 809 2889 (daytime messages) and 806 9211 (evenings and weekends).